

An Interview with

Rosie Lee Wells

March 22, 1980

Interviewed by

Cheryol Lois Wells

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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Jackson., Mississippi 39205

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Interviewee: Wells, Rosie Lee  
Interviewer: Wells, Cheryol Lois

Title: An interview with Rosie Lee Wells, March 22, 1980 /  
interviewed by Cheryol Lois Wells

Collection Title: Murrah High School Advanced History Class Oral History  
Project, Easter Flood of 1979

Scope Note: Murrah High School students, with assistance from the  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, conducted oral  
history interviews with local citizens about the Easter Flood of  
1979. The interviews were conducted during the 1979-1980  
school year.

**AU 532**

- C. WELLS: The date of this tape is March 22, 1980. My name is Cheryol Lois Wells, I am 16 years old, and I attend Murrah High School, where now I am classified as a Junior. The person I am interviewing is my mother, Ms. Rosie Lee Wells. So, what were your relations to the Easter flood of 1979?
- R. WELLS: I was a standby clerk, answering the phone, and giving out information about some of the closings of some of the streets and highways. But then, some was open. Some of the people had to be, what I call, pacified, because some of the ladies were completely hysterical. I had to sympathize and try to control them, or help to control them. I am not sure of all the information that was given because some of it was handed to us on paper which when people asked us things then I was supposed to read it off or get somebody else to answer those questions.
- C. WELLS: Thank you, Ms. Wells. Ms. Wells, how high did the water rise?
- R. WELLS: I don't have that information yet because as I said, some of it was passed to us on paper and for that cause, I didn't keep that and remember.
- C. WELLS: What were some damage that the water did?
- R. WELLS: Homes, and their content, property, streets, signs and numerous cars. Some of our large car dealers were able to remove their cars out to the mall to keep them from being damaged.
- C. WELLS: Approximately how many people did you help?
- R. WELLS: Like I said again, I'm not sure, because of the calls and we didn't have time or a chance to count the things that we were doing.
- C. WELLS: Did you see the water in person, on TV, etc.?
- R. WELLS: Mostly it was on the TV. Now, we were right there at the communications center above Pearl River itself, but I never went to that back door and looked out.
- C. WELLS: Okay, did any people get hurt?
- R. WELLS: Hmm, I'm not sure about that either.
- C. WELLS: Do you think we will have another flood this year?
- R. WELLS: I hope not, but it could be because the water is rising now.

C. WELLS:

Thank you, Ms. Wells, for your time. The interview with Ms. Wells was very successful. The interviewee was very cooperative. The question of a flood this year has arose again. Will there be an Easter flood in 1980? Well, in my opinion, if it's God's will, it will be done. I thank you.

**END OF RECORDING**